

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16 and 18 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9 and 16 have been amended, and claims 2, 10, and 17 are cancelled.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Model et al. (EP 0,848,456) is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 includes the recitations of claim 2, now cancelled, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 2 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 5-8 depend from independent claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 5-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 5-8 are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Amended Claim 9 now includes the recitations of claim 10, now cancelled, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 9 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 11 and 13-15 depend from independent claim 1, and when the recitations of claims 11 and 13-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claims 11 and 13-15 are likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Amended Claim 16 includes the recitations of claim 17, now cancelled, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 16 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 18 depends from independent claim 16, and when the recitations of claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 18, claim 17 is likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-15 and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 4, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gladd et al. (EP 0,721,234) is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 includes the recitations of claim 2, now cancelled, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 2 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1, and when the recitations of claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, claim 4 is likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 12 depends from claim 9, which is submitted to be patentable for the reasons set forth above. When the recitations of claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 9, claim 12 is likewise submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Amended Claim 16 includes the recitations of claim 17, now cancelled, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 16 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

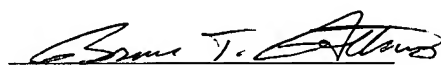
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 4, 12 and 16 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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